

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 0885

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ETRD, OAS, IA-ECOSOC, PA

SUBJECT: IA-ECOSOC MEETING

REF: 1) ASUNCION 0827; 2) ASUNCION 0651

1. AS REPORTED REFTEL 1, EMBOFF DISCUSSED ON MARCH 5TH FORTHCOMING IA-ECOSOC MEETING WITH UNDERSECRETARY OF COMMERCE DR. BLAS CHAMORRO, WHO WILL REPRESENT PARAGUAY. THE DISCUSSION INVOLVED A DETAILED REVIEW OF THE PROVISIONS OF AND ADVANTAGES TO BE DERIVED FROM THE U.S. TRADE ACT.

2. DR. CHAMORRO HAS PARTICIPATED DURING THE PAST TWO WEEKS AS A MEMBER OF THE GOP ECONOMIC COUNCIL COMMITTEE STUDYING THE U.S. TRADE ACT. AS A RESULT OF THIS WORK, HE HAS BECOME QUITE KNOWLEDGEABLE CONCERNING THE ACT'S PROVISIONS AND ESPECIALLY THE PROS AND CONS OF TITLE V. COVERING THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES.

3. IN THE COURSE OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, DR. CHAMORRO EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT THE WASHINGTON MEETING WOULD DEVOTE ITSELF TO A SERIOUS AND NON-POLITICIZED STUDY OF THE TRADE ACT AND THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS TO BE DERIVED FROM IT. HE SAID THAT HIS SELECTION AS PARAGUAYAN REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MEETING HAD COME AS A RESULT OF THE AMBASSADOR'S INTERVENTION  
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WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER IN WHICH IT HAD BEEN

EMPHASIZED THAT NAMING A TECHNICALLY QUALIFIED REPRESENTATIVE WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO BOTH COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, DR. CHAMORRO SAID THAT BASED ON PAST EXPERIENCE, HE HAD CONSIDERABLE RESERVATIONS WHETHER THE IA-ECOSOC MINISTERIAL MEETING WOULD IN FACT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE THE FORUM FOR A DISPASSIONATE AND CAREFUL STUDY OF THE U.S. TRADE ACT AT THIS TIME.

4. IN A MEETING ON ANOTHER MATTER ALSO ON MORNING OF MARCH 5, PARAGUAYAN FOREIGN MINISTER SAPENA PASTOR TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT DR. CHAMORRO HAD BEEN SELECTED AS PARAGUAYAN REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MINISTERIAL MEETING BECAUSE OF THE U.S. SUGGESTION THAT A HIGH-RANKING TECHNICALLY QUALIFIED OFFICIAL BE CHOSEN. THE FOREIGN MINISTER ALSO EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE ADDITIONAL COSTS AND TROUBLE INVOLVED IN SENDING SUCH A REPRESENTATIVE FROM PARAGUAY INSTEAD OF NAMING THE AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON WOULD PROVE TO BE WORTHWHILE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING.

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